



STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
301 CENTENNIAL MALL SOUTH • PO BOX 94987 • LINCOLN, NE
68509

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting

Nebraska State Office Building

Lincoln, NE

May 14, 2019

Meeting Minutes

Public notice of upcoming meetings will be available on the Department of Education website under "Master Calendar" at least 5 days prior to each meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lonnie Berger, Crystal Booker, Jerry Bryan, Michael Bursaw, Lindy Foley, Gayle Hahn, Deanna Henke, Susan Madsen, Cody McEvoy (substitute for Carly Weyers), Vicki Newman, Diane Owen-Downs, David Scott, Alice Senseney, JD Simmons

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chris Gaspari, John McNally, Jonathan Moeller, Tobias Orr, Sandy Peterson, Adriana Springer, Cassidy Wall, Camie West

VR STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Chapin, Angela Fujan, Brigid Griffin, Ashley Hernandez, Mary Matusiak

INTERPRETERS: Kelly Brakenhoff, Ben Sparks

The meeting of the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) commenced at 10:00 a.m. public notification of this meeting was made on the Nebraska Department of Education web site.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No public comment was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

JD Simmons moved and Dea Henke seconded the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019 MINUTES

Susan Madsen moved and Michael Bursaw seconded a motion to approve the February 12, 2019 meeting minutes as submitted. There were no objections to the motion. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

SRC NEW MEMBERS

David Scott welcomed new member, Deanna Henke. Dea introduced herself as a representative from the Statewide Independent Living Council.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON VR

David Scott asked council members if any feedback was brought to council members. No member feedback was shared.

CAP REPORT

Jerry Bryan shared an outreach video created for the Nebraska Client Assistance Program for member feedback. Jerry stated this video is available on YouTube. Jerry discussed this video is being shared via word of mouth, included on brochures and pamphlets, and shared on social media. Jerry and members discussed CAP services and how individuals can utilize CAP. Jerry provided members with a written report outlining CAP cases from the past quarter. Jerry summarized the 3 cases included in this quarter's report. Jerry summarized case one regarding a client requesting vehicle modification for employment transportation was denied as job retention services. Jerry shared more information and clarification was needed to meet the requirement of retention necessity. Jerry shared the services were not approved but the client was to remain on the waiting list for service through VR. Case two was discussed regarding a job retention service request and miscommunication between the VR counselor and client. Jerry shared there was great conversation with VR and the client in this case and VR approved the retention request. Jerry noted clarification and improvements were made by VR due to this case to improve services. Jerry reviewed the third case which involved miscommunication from a client, their parents and VR. Jerry shared the situation was caused due to VR communicating with the adult client who was receiving notices but the client was not communicating this with his parents. Jerry shared that case was closed and a new application was made and the client is currently on the waiting list.

MEMBER FEEDBACK ON WRITTEN REPORTS

Members were provided with written reports from ATP, SILC, and CAP. Dea Henke will share a summary of SILC at the next council meeting. Dea shared the Olmstead Plan LB 150 was passed and is currently awaiting the Governor's signature, LB 147 regarding a restraint and exclusion bill SILC opposes has been offered amendments and is currently stuck in committee. Brigid Griffin reported there is a new NYLC staff member who will attend the August SRC meeting. No additional feedback was provided.

SUMMER GRANTS

Brigid Griffin reported VR has partnered with the Nebraska Department of Education for summer grants, sharing 18 contracts were written. Brigid discussed there are slightly fewer grants this summer than in the past years. Brigid stated the summer grants offer great work place learning, work place readiness and self advocacy opportunities and learning.

PROJECT SEARCH JOB FAIR

Mary Matusiak shared the Project Search Job Fair was held April 30th and was a huge success. Approximately 240 students participated, 50 business representatives participated in the business expo, an additional 15 employers provided work skill assessments as well as 40 volunteers provided mock interviews for students. Mary shared this year's fair was held at the Lancaster Event Center and hopefully next year's job fair will be held at the Embassy Suites in La Vista. Mary shared there was a lot of positive feedback following the event. Brigid shared there was also a panel of Project SEARCH graduates that were wonderful. Sarah Chapin shared that volunteers and businesses were

provided “stand out cards” which participants could earn for drawings which greatly appealed to student participants and helped increase engagement. Brigid stated information was also provided to teachers on how to prepare students for the job fair which was also beneficial.

FOLLOW UP OF LAST MEETINGS ACTION ITEMS

Senator Outreach

David Scott reviewed this morning’s Senator Outreach. David shared aides and senators did not come to the meeting room so members went to senator offices so they could share information. David shared in the future they will continue with “door knocking” in order to be able to reach out and share information one on one. David shared he felt it was beneficial and ultimately the message was shared. Council members will continue discussing a plan for next year’s event at the August meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee members summarized the work of each committee for new members. Members broke into committees for discussion.

Client Services

Gayle Hahn reported the committee reviewed the post-employment client satisfaction survey for the second quarter (January-March). Gayle shared 94% of respondents were still employed. 97% of respondents reported they would recommend VR to family and friends. The consumer input committee has been reactivated and they are performing 30 day contacts with clients via email for feedback. Jerry Bryan reported 12 individuals were contacted and 4 individuals have responded to date by the consumer input committee. Lindy Foley shared the average hourly wage of employed clients is \$13.41. Angela Fujan shared several survey comments included VR counselors by name and the committee discussed acknowledging those counselors.

Employer Services

Mary Matusiak shared the committee discussed the upcoming business awards which will be held in October. Mary summarized the four award categories: small business, large business, entrepreneurs, and champion. Mary shared they will add an additional category this year highlighting a new business award. Mary stated nominations will be collected in June and reviewed by the committee in August. Mary reported the committee discussed BAC meetings in Lincoln and Omaha for Project Search and strategies to increase participation.

Transition Services

JD Simmons reported the committee reviewed the 18 statewide summer grant programs. JD shared on June 14th and 15th the NYLC conference will be held in Hastings at the Holiday Inn. The committee shared Kathy Loyd is the new NYLC director. JD shared the committee discussed new consent and release forms that will be ready at the beginning of the school year to help eliminate benefit issues. New recommendations on the forms include counselors meeting with students & families two years prior to graduation due to wait list concerns. JD reported Project Search sites are currently in the process of selecting candidates for next year. Brigid Griffin reviewed teacher feedback regarding pre-employment transition services survey results. JD reported during administrator days a representative will speak on transition service requirements.

DIRECTORS REPORT

Lindy Foley delivered the VR Director’s Report. Lindy shared in March, National Rehab Counselor Day was recognized by the Governor stating it was a great day at the Capitol. Lindy shared they

have been visiting VR offices as part of the team tours and will be wrapping those up this month. Lindy reported as a national program there are more states in an order of selection than are not. Lindy discussed Nebraska has been working on developing an Olmstead plan sharing Nebraska VR is very much at the table in this plan, sharing VR wants to see this plan move forward in a comprehensive plan to support individuals with disabilities. Lindy discussed current wait list status; priority group one continues to grow by approximately 100 individuals per month. Lindy discussed each applicant is meeting with VR staff and referrals and additional resources in the community are provided prior to being added to the waitlist. Currently there are 2,103 individuals in priority group one, 594 in priority group two, and 313 in group three. Lindy discussed common performance measures with WIOA. Lindy reported there are six new common performance measures including retention after 6 months and then 1 year, median earnings, career pathway measures and effectiveness in serving employers. Lindy discussed there are plans in action to collect this data. Lindy shared they are currently collecting the baseline and in 2020 they will collect and assess how to improve upon those measures. Lindy discussed the state legislature's appropriation committee's recommendation to increase VR's funding. Lindy shared there does not seem to be concerns regarding this bill and additional information will be available later today. Lindy reported due to the state's disaster declaration additional funds could become available with reallocation. Lindy shared she has had discussions with RSA, and Nebraska VR continues to be open with partners regarding the waiting list and budget.

NEXT MEETING

August 13, 2019 – Nebraska VR Office, 3901 N. 27th St.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:22pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Written Reports Spotlight – SILC, Dea Henke
- Senator Outreach February 2020
- Business Award Nominations – Employer Services Committee